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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/491,429	01/26/2000	John F. Heanue	A-68918/ENB	8521

7590 08/14/2002
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
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EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, ARMANDO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2828

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/491,429

Applicant(s)

HEANUE ET AL. 

Examiner

Armando Rodriguez

Art Unit

2828

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the c ver sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowability of claims 13-16 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Akimoto et al. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang et al (PN 5,771,252) in view of Akimoto et al (Micro electro mechanical systems (MEMS) and their photonic application, SPIE Proceedings) and Maeda (PN 6,018,535).

Regarding claims 1-11,13 and 15-20.

In figure 5 Lang et al illustrates an external cavity tunable laser having a source (10) for providing light, a diffractive element (12) position from the source to redirect the light at a distance, a reflective element (18A), having a rotational pivot point, positioned from the diffractive element by a distance to receive the light from the diffractive

element, which redirects the light back to the diffractive element, where the diffractive element redirects the light from the reflective element to the source.

In the abstract Lang et al discloses the wavelength selected by rotational and translation movement of the reflector on the pivot point, where the path length of the external cavity is substantially identical to a numerical integer of half the wavelengths.

Lang et al does not disclose the micro-actuator for tuning the laser system to obtain different wavelengths.

Akimoto et al discloses in the abstract the use of micro-electro mechanical systems (MEMS) technologies in tunable laser diodes.

Figures 5 and 14 Akimoto et al, illustrates an external cavity tunable laser, which involves electrostatic micro actuator and electrostatic comb drive actuator technologies coupled to a micro-mirror to obtain a tunable laser system.

In figure 15 Akimoto et al illustrates the wavelength tunable range of the laser system, which has a range that falls within 1520nm to 1560nm, and a precise wavelength control of 0.01nm.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the MEMS technologies disclosed by Akimoto et al to the external cavity tunable laser of Lang et al because the combination will provide a compact laser system with precise and accurate tunable wavelength range.

Regarding claims 12 and 14.

The use of a Fabry-Perot laser source in a tunable external cavity laser system is well known in the laser art, as shown by Maeda in figure 1 element (1) and disclosed in column 5 lines 33-35.

U.S. Patent

JUN 23, 1998

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5,771,252

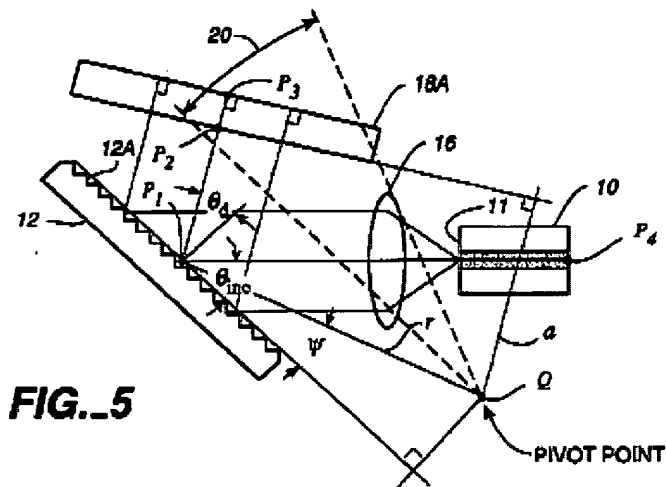


FIG. 5

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Jan. 25, 2000

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6,018,535

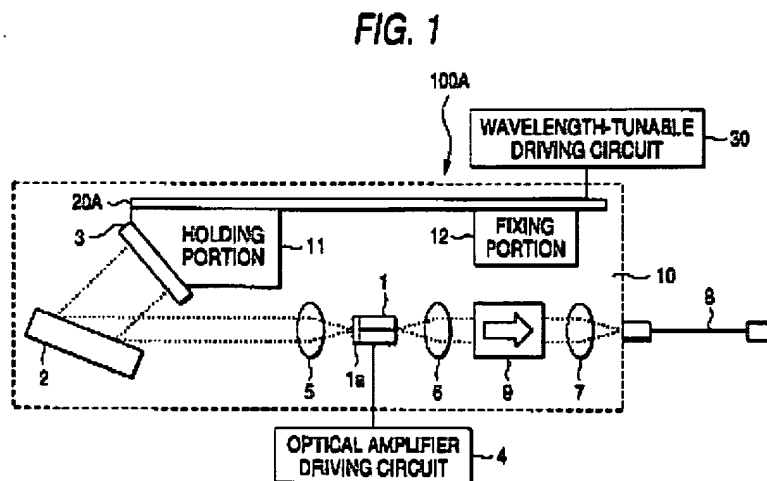


FIG. 1

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1,2,3,5,7,9,10-12 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1,2,3,5,6,7,10,11,14,15 of copending Application No. 09728212. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both application pertain to an external cavity tunable laser having a microactuator for tuning the laser system

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Conflicting Claims

Application	Co-pending Application
1	1
2	2
3	5
5	6,7
7	10
9	14
10	3
11	11
12	15

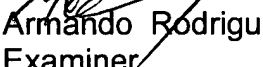
Conclusion

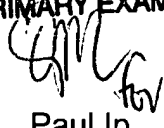
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Armando Rodriguez whose telephone number is (703) 308-6218. The examiner can normally be reached on 10-hour day / M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Ip can be reached on (703) 308-3098. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7721 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 2828

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-4881.


Armando Rodriguez
Examiner
Art Unit 2828


QUYEN LEUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Paul Ip
Supervisor
Art Unit 2828

AR/PI
August 5, 2002